

## "SENDING GOODNEWS"

Isaiah 52

INTRODUCTION:

The most delightful task in the world is delivering good news. The other side of the coin is quite different -- sad news creates no joy and is painful to present.

The three men in space have been good news so far - sending pictures back by T. V. The good reports puts excitement in the hearts of scientists. The moon is one step away!

The world is full of preachers. Some have good news. Some just have something to grumble and complain about.

Cartoon - Pictured two men passing a church in a car ..... the congregation was spilling out of the church, shouting, waving their arms, and carrying the minister on their shoulders like jubilant alumni escorting the winning coach off the football field.

One man in the car says to the other, "I wonder what his text was today".

So do we! I have often wondered what kind of preaching it would take to excite the congregation and cause a general rejoicing among the people of God.

Prophet offers good news of Zion's free redemption. Chapter 52. This is joyful news to communicate. The Christians has this good news - how can a Christian fail to tell it? Why not publish it everywhere?

Outline:

- I. Sudden Call = V. 1-2.
- II. Selling Out - V. 3-6.
- III. Sending Good Tidings - V. 7-15.

I. Sudden Call - V. 1-2.

V. 1 - Awake - Repeated - Stir up.

Strong figure employed, they are asleep. (As in V. 51) She lies captive, prostrate in the dust, all her strength gone, all glory gone - sleeping.

Who can this be addressed to? Zion - the remnant of Israel that embodied the Jewish nation.

State of depression, degradation, enslaved and oppressed is the essential idea.

Commanded - Put on beautiful garments, becoming the Holy City.

Idea - Exchange the old life for a new way. Put on strength.

Condition - changing - show yourself, once more a great people - contrast captives.

Uncircumcised - no more come - foreigners shall no longer injure Jerusalem.

Unclean will not enter the Temple.

Do Not overlook - A picture of the church. Awake - awake - describes the church. At ease in Zion. Prophets prophesy smooth things and people love it. The cry a "Little More Sleep".

While the man slept - the adversary sowed the tares.

Slothfulness is the secret of spiritual weakness in the church.

Carelessness about morals is another cause of a sleeping church.

Joining the church for mercenary purposes puts the church to sleep.

What changed Lots wife into a pillar of salt -- brought Haman to the gallows. Demas to separate from the disciples?

All victims of the world.

A sleeping church can be noted in the growing infidelity, indifference in religion, false doctrines.

Awake and love Christ - increase your faith. (Confess) "against Thee, O Lord, have I sinned, and done evil in Thy sight". Let the church give and sacrifice.

John Corbin: "Many go to the house of God, not to be instructed, edified in the faith, helped on their way to Heaven; but to sit in judgment on the preacher's intellectual powers, that they may go and pronounce for or against what they have heard. Spiritual growth is the last thing thought of and least cared about".

This must be changed - the three sleeping disciples in the garden.

W. M. Paxton: Once described the church as a sleeping giant slumbering and that during the Reformation the church heard the cry awake, awake. Then followed the chill of formalism and sank into a coma.

What makes the church go to sleep? How can the stone be rolled away as at the grave of Lazarus.

It happens when truth is depreciated and human themes take the place of Gospel themes. Some tell half of the Gospel - make light of the cross. Use a few of Christ's teachings and remain silent about the cross and his blood.

Minimizes the Gospel - The Spirit must work.

Samson - Arose and shook himself and thought he would go forth and smite the Philistines - as a foretime.

Peter stood to preach - the church had been on her knees.

V. 2 - Shake Thyself - Sit Up-Right.

Arise shake thyself free of all dust.

Arise and be throned, O Salem!

Loose thyself free from the bands of thy neck - get clear of all servitude.

Exchange your dust for a throne!

Gospel proclaims liberty - all men under sin and doubt can find relief in Christ.

God had caused the bands to fall and releave their position around the captives neck.

II. Selling Out - V. 3-6.

V. 3 - Sold yourselves for naught - God did not receive any payment when you allowed yourselves to become slaves. Without any price.

Did not belong to themselves or to God.

You might think about it in these terms - many people today sell out too cheap. Sell themselves actually and it is for naught. World, never keeps any promises.

Tragic to sell your soul.

Tragic to sell your life for a poor bargain.

Men or woman usually volunteers to sell themselves. Cheap sale.

Redeemed without money - the bondage to which you have sold yourself, no silver shall be paid for your redemption.

You, who listen now, can be redeemed, not with silver money, but the blood of Christ.

V. 4 - Went down as guest voluntarily into Egypt. Reduced to slaves. Violently carried into Assyrian captivity. Now in captivity under Babylonia.

V. 5 - God seems to suffer with his children. They serve for naught. Rule over them. Cause to howl - cry. God's name is blasphemed.

His children can not praise him, they are depressed, dispirited - made to sigh. Ex. 2:23.

Their enemies would not praise him and boasted of their power over God. Rom. 2:23-24.

God used to hear joyful songs of praise and he took pleasure in them.

Jesuits suppose to express morality, but have subverted and declare good evil. They're even expelled by Pope Clement XIV by his "Bull" of July 21, 1773.

"Extinguished and suppressed them" (He died in 1771 of poison) (Schaff-Heryoz Encycl.)

V. 6 - I will endure this no longer - My people shall have no question as to the deep significance of my name. I am indeed Jehovah - eternal - ever-present.

Contrast - My name derided day after day - Now - Here am I! Day when God will come and help and deliver - unchanging one - 2 or 3 gathered in that name - speaks of power.

III. Sending Good Tiding - V. 7-15.

V. 7 - Wonderful things about the Messiah.

1. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger.
2. That publisheth peace.

3. Brings good tidings of good.
4. Publisheth salvation.
5. Declares God reigneth.

Nahum 1:15 "Behold upon the mountain the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep Thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through Thee; he is utterly cut off!"  
Copied image of Isaiah. Behold the feet of the joyful messenger - he announceth peace - celebrate your festivals - perform your vows. For no more shall the wicked through Thee - He is cut off.

Romans 10:15 "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Paul applied the passage to minister of the Gospel. Bringeth good tidings - corresponding to the Greek evangelizo - from which comes the word evangelist. One who publisheth this Gospel. He is an Evangel of blessing.

Expressed in word Herald - 40:9; 41:27.

Joyful tidings - Tidings of good publishing peace - publishing salvation.

The Gospel entering into our life, indeed is good tidings. We no longer think what we can do but what God can do and is doing.

Idea of release from Babylon - figure, type of redemption by Jesus Christ.

Thought of as great blessing.

Song 2:17.

Shoe - "How beautiful are thy feet with shoes" Sings Solomon 7:1.

These messengers are beautiful, shod with the message.

Eph. 6:15 - You are to put on beautiful shoes - whole armor of God - cover from head to foot. The preparation of the Gospel of peace - strange armor. Adapted to resist the foe, the great enemy - wicked spirits. Always ready to go with these shoes.

How beautiful are his feet. The one who washed the disciples feet, had his nailed to the cross.

Hearers had expectation - beseiged Zion - in ruins, hopeless - looking up. Receptivity.

Sermons - People hear different things - Attitude is important. Dr. A. P. Williams, Pastor Central Methodist Episcopal Church, Richmond, Va., used this illustration: Tells how the famous Henry Ward Beacher once came upon a man who had come from somewhere to hear him preach. After the service the stranger cornered the great preacher and said "I counted your mistakes in English today and you made exactly twenty". To which Beacher replied, "I'll bet I made a hundred!"

At that same service a young immigrant boy was sitting in a rear pew of Beacher's church. Today that boy is grown. If you were to go to him (he is Professor Michael Pupin of Columbia University) and ask him about preachers, he would tell that in those early lonesome days nothing so inspired and stimulated me as those sermons of Dr. Beachers.

A fault-finder found twenty mistakes in English. But a lonesome immigrant boy found help and hope and blessed inspiration.

Sit at the feet of some Godly minister - why didn't he mention how beautiful the voice - face.

They were concerned about the swiftness of the one bringing good news - had an urgent message.

The weary city waited for a message of hope - good tidings of good - publisheth peace - salvation.

A gloomy miserable looking Christian stood outside a mission. Will you come to our service tonight? The stranger gave one quick glance and replied as he hurried off, no thank you! I've troubles enough of my own!" Are you surprised?

You have a message of hope - be cheerful.

Christianity Today - October 13, 1968 reports - Account of Board Meeting - National Council of Churches, passed a resolution - 74 for 23 against - "That the N. C. C. including its several units, refrain from the purchase or use of California table grapes until such time as union recognition and assurance of god faith collective bargaining are granted by the California growers".

(Not involve grapes for wine, juice, and raisins.)

What would Isaiah say about this? Awake the N. C. C. is fast asleep.

God reigneth - return from Babylon - Luke 2:10-11. Matt. 5:35. Final restoration.

V. 8 - Good Tidings means the Messiah.

1. What a call to the ministry - Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice.
2. What a call to music - with the voice together shall they sing.
3. What a call to whole congregation - for they shall see eye to eye.

Watchmen set on towers - give early notice of the approach of a messenger with tidings.

He shall lead the chorus in this triumph. Concert.

Eye to Eye - Close at hand - see Zion's King. John 1:14. Looked upon. I John 1:1. God is leader.

V. 9 - Waste - City not wholly destroyed - only the temple, royal palace, houses of nobles. 2 K. 25:9. Poorer houses left - some of these had decayed.

Sing together.

1. Will have comfort of his salvation.
2. Will have his redemption.

V. 10 - 3. Will have the Glory of it - Holy Arm.

4. Will benefit all people - Luke 3:6.

Not done in a corner - eyes of all will be upon.

Holy Arm - made bare in battle for world to see.

V. 11 - Time arrived - earnest exhortation to depart. Perils of the way: Touch no unclean thing, bring not the idols of Babylon with you.

Be clean - purify yourselves. Those who are to bear the Lord's vessels are to formally purify themselves.

Time to leave, been there in Babylon, some may want to stay on. Nebuchadnezzar had carried the vessels of the Temple away. Cyrus had agreed to restore them.

Lose no time - when Spirit stirs - move - take nothing unclean or polluted - Keep yourselves from every wicked thing. Rev. 1:6.

Idolatrous customs of Egypt - Ezek. 23:3. Ruined some. 2 Cor. 7:17.

Foreshadowing of future.

Egypt: left in haste - laden with gold and silver.

Life is valuable - "Be ye clean".

House wife - does she use vessels covered with dirt? No - ashamed of unclean vessel.

Can anything be of more importance?

Usefulness of your life depends upon it. Vessel of dishonor - wicked conduct. I Cor. 5:12. Any willful association with such defiles.

Pharisees - Does house wife cleanse her soiled vessels by simply pushing them aside? She cleans each one of dirt that defiles. Then sets it apart for use - a fitted.

People ask foolishly - "Where shall we draw the line?" Some draw it at point of some amusement.

Question is - a change of my heart and the conditions will change.

Faith and the relation to Christ will help you draw the line.

V. 12 - Guide will be furnished - Presence of God. God your vanguard.

Ex. 12:33 - Thrust out.

Now free permission of Cyrus to depart. Calm and deliberate - Go before them be their rear guard. Not steal away. As pillar of cloud. Visible token.

Lot going out of Sodom - Linger.



Compassed about with his love.

V. 13 - My Servant - Prophecy that begins here continues through the next chapter.

Points to Jesus.

Some think this refers to Jeremiah.

Philip - preached Christ to the Enoch from this passage. Acts 8:34-35.

Qualified to lead them - I Sam. 18:14. I Cor. 2:7.

Prudently-Wise - prosper - shall reign well. "A King shall reign and prosper"  
Hebrew word.

Exalted and Extolled = Mark 16:19, I pet. 3:22. This is King Messiah who  
is made higher than Abraham. More elevated than Moses and exalted above the  
ministering angels. (Midrasha Tanhuma says).

But one step from Holy of Holies.

The Salvation of Jehovah. John 1:18.

From depths of tomb to Glory.

V. 14 - Astonished at him.

Why? His visage was marred - buffeted. Smitten - Crowned with Thorns.  
Spit upon.

Delitzsch - says sit at the foot of the cross on Calvary, and sees the Redeemer  
as he hung upon the accursed tree, after he had been buffeted and crowned with  
Thorns, and smitten and scourged and crucified, when his face was covered with  
bruises and with gore, and his frame and features distorted with agony."

Visage marred - disfigurement - more than any man - no longer favored man -  
changed.

Point to the depth of unparalleled sufferings.

V. 15 - Sprinkle many nations.

Kings will be silent - they see what has been told them. They understand what  
they have heard.

Sprinkle - must interpret this according to the mosaic ceremonies - there

was a sprinkling of blood to set forth pardon of sin and a sprinkling of water to set forth purification from the power of sin.

Jesus Christ with the water and the blood from his river side which flowed has sprinkled men and nations.

By Preaching the Gospel it has prevailed over all opposition - Kings - Potentates - Speechless at the doctrines of truth.

They shall see - Rom. 15:21 "But as it is written, to whom he was not spoken of, they shall see, and they that have not heard shall understand".

Rom. 16:25-26. Much has been said in the Old Testament concerning the Messiah.